

REMARKS

Please reconsider the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-7 contain allowable subject matter. In this reply, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 2. Accordingly, applicant believes this application is now in condition for allowance.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-7 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 is independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Claim Amendments

Independent claim 1 has been amended by way of this reply. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 2. No new matter has been added by way of this amendment, as support for this amendment may be found, for example, in claim 2 of the present application. Dependent claims 2 and 6 have been cancelled. Dependent claim 3 has been amended to be dependent from claim 1. Dependent claim 5 has been amended to correct minor grammatical errors. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 112

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 2 and 6 have been cancelled in this reply. Thus, this rejection is now moot with respect to claims 2 and 6. Additionally, claims 3 and 7, which are directly and indirectly

dependent from independent claim 1, no longer inherit a defect in their parent claim. Claim 5, indirectly dependent from claim 1, now has proper antecedent basis for "the engagement part." Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 103

Independent claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,498,552 issued to Rico (hereinafter "Rico") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,081,436 issued to Nishi *et al.* (hereinafter "Nishi"). Claim 1 has been amended in this reply to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 2. Accordingly, amended independent claim 1 is now allowable. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

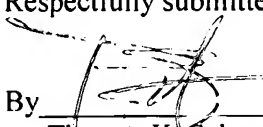
Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places the present application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 15115/110001).

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Respectfully submitted,

By


Thomas K. Scherer
Registration No.: 45,079
Osha & May L.L.P.
1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800
Houston, TX 77010
(713) 228-8600
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)